



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2008**

**Grade 4
Reading**

Reading

❶ Which word rhymes with shine?

- ☐ A. chin
- ☐ B. sight
- ☐ C. clean
- ☐ D. sign

❷ Which word has the same **beginning sound** as jewel?

- ☐ A. girl
- ☐ B. wheel
- ☐ C. gentle
- ☐ D. puzzle

Read this passage about people who traveled to Oregon in the 1840s. Then answer the questions that follow.

If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon

by Ellen Levine

Why did some people want to travel all the way to Oregon?

Back in the 1840s you heard about faraway places by reading newspapers or hearing stories told by visitors who came from the distant places. This is how people learned of a land on the other side—the west side—of the Rocky Mountains. That land was called Oregon.

Stories told about Oregon made it sound like a magical place. Flowers bloomed all year. The land was good for farming. And there was plenty of land that you could get for free. There were tall trees and big forests, and rivers and streams filled with fish.

So the very name *Oregon* made people think of starting new adventures.

What was a wagon train?

A wagon train was a group of covered wagons that went together on the long trip West. The wagons would travel in a single line so that from a distance they looked like a slow-moving train. If the trail was wide enough, they would sometimes spread out to get away from each other's dust.

At night the wagons would form a big circle with the front of one wagon facing the back of another. Children would often play inside the wagon circle after dinner and just before bedtime.

Did anybody lead the wagon train?

Yes. When pioneers gathered their wagons together at the start of the trip, they elected a leader. This leader, or captain, would blow the horn or whistle to wake everybody up in the morning. He was also the one who decided when you would stop for lunch and at the end of the day.

The captain, with a few others, would often ride a little in front of the wagon train to see what was ahead on the trail. Then they would ride up and down the wagon line to make sure that everything was okay.

Usually there was a council of about six to ten people who would meet at night with the captain to talk about how the trip was going. Each person would report on different problems:

- A wagon wheel had broken and the family needed someone to help make a new one.
- Somebody's flour barrel had gotten all wet and muddy crossing the river, and the family needed to get some flour from anyone who could spare a little.
- A group of men had to be organized for the next day's buffalo hunt.

The captain and the council would plan who would stand guard at night to protect the animals and warn the people if anything was wrong.

What kinds of people traveled West?

Many different kinds of people went to live in the new place called Oregon.

Farmers wanted to go to find good new land. Storekeepers wanted to go to set up new shops. There were carpenters and bakers and blacksmiths. There were missionaries and shoemakers and artists and lawyers. There were doctors and teachers and almost anyone else you can think of who might want to try something new.

You were especially lucky if people who knew many of these different things were in your wagon train. Then it was like carrying your whole town with you on the trip.

Sometimes people who didn't start out with you on the trip were there when you arrived at your new home. That's because babies were born on the trip!

If you had a new sister or brother on the trip, the wagon train would stop for a day or two. Usually several of the women knew how to help when babies were born. And there in the middle of a new country would be a new person.

15 The travelers, including the new babies, were called pioneers because they were the first group of people to move into a new land and make a new home.

- 3 Why did wagons in a wagon train sometimes spread out?
- ☐ A. to look like a slow-moving train
 - ☐ B. to avoid the dust from other wagons
 - ☐ C. to move more quickly in a single line
 - ☐ D. to make new trails that were wide

- 4 Why was the captain of a wagon train important?
- ☐ A. The captain knew how to get to Oregon.
 - ☐ B. The captain hunted the buffalo.
 - ☐ C. The captain kept the wagon train organized.
 - ☐ D. The captain gathered the wagons together.

- 5 What was the **main** job of each person on the council?
- ☐ A. to stand guard every night
 - ☐ B. to ride ahead of the wagon train
 - ☐ C. to fix broken wagon wheels
 - ☐ D. to report on different problems

- 6 What is the **main idea** of the part titled “What kinds of people traveled West?”
- ☐ A. Babies were often born during the trip West.
 - ☐ B. People who moved West were called pioneers.
 - ☐ C. Many different kinds of people moved West.
 - ☐ D. Moving West was like carrying a whole town.

7 Use the definitions below.

trail (noun): 1. a marked or beaten path
(verb): 2. to follow behind

Write your own sentences using the word trail to show **each** dictionary meaning.

1. _____

2. _____

Use the definitions below.

report (noun): 1. a news story
(verb): 2. to tell what happened

Write your own sentences using the word report to show **each** dictionary meaning.

3. _____

4. _____

- 8 What is the **main** purpose of the dark headings in the passage?
- ☐ A. to ask the reader questions about the West
 - ☐ B. to organize the information in the passage
 - ☐ C. to show questions that the author still has
 - ☐ D. to give information that is not in the passage
- 9 In the last paragraph, the word pioneers means people who
- ☐ A. are the first to do something.
 - ☐ B. live an exciting life.
 - ☐ C. know many different people.
 - ☐ D. are elected to be leaders.

- 10 Which word means the **opposite** of distant?
- ☐ A. near
 - ☐ B. rough
 - ☐ C. new
 - ☐ D. plenty
- 11 Which of the following is **not** a compound word?
- ☐ A. bedtime
 - ☐ B. storekeepers
 - ☐ C. adventures
 - ☐ D. faraway

- 12** Explain why people in wagon trains traveled in groups instead of alone. Use details from the passage.

[illegible]

Acknowledgments

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Grade 4 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand ¹	WV	WV	II	IA	II	II	WV	II	WV	WV	WV	IA
GLE Code	3-1	3-1	3-7	3-8	3-7	3-7	3-2	3-7	3-3	3-3	3-1	3-8
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	3
Item Type ²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	D	C	B	C	D	C		B	A	A	C	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, CR = Constructed Response



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
Support Materials
2008**

**Grade 4
Reading**

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

3.1.1 Applies word identification/decoding strategies by identifying multi-syllabic words, by using knowledge of sounds, syllable types, or word patterns (including prefixes, suffixes, or variant spellings for consonants or vowels, e.g., bought)

ID:270902 D Common

1 Which word rhymes with shine?

- ☐ A. chin
- ☐ B. sight
- ☐ C. clean
- ☐ D. sign

3.1.1 Applies word identification/decoding strategies by identifying multi-syllabic words, by using knowledge of sounds, syllable types, or word patterns (including prefixes, suffixes, or variant spellings for consonants or vowels, e.g., bought)

ID:270912 C Common

2 Which word has the same **beginning sound** as jewel?

- ☐ A. girl
- ☐ B. wheel
- ☐ C. gentle
- ☐ D. puzzle

If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon

Informational Text

3.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to explicitly stated main/central ideas or details

ID:203740 B Common

- 3** Why did wagons in a wagon train sometimes spread out?
- ☐ A. to look like a slow-moving train
 - ☐ B. to avoid the dust from other wagons
 - ☐ C. to move more quickly in a single line
 - ☐ D. to make new trails that were wide

3.8.3 Analyze and interpret informational texts, citing evidence where appropriate by making basic inferences, drawing basic conclusions, or forming judgments/opinions about central ideas that are relevant

ID:203743 C Common

- 4** Why was the captain of a wagon train important?
- ☐ A. The captain knew how to get to Oregon.
 - ☐ B. The captain hunted the buffalo.
 - ☐ C. The captain kept the wagon train organized.
 - ☐ D. The captain gathered the wagons together.

If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon

Informational Text

3.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to explicitly stated main/central ideas or details

ID:232589 D Common

- 5** What was the **main** job of each person on the council?
- ☐ A. to stand guard every night
 - ☐ B. to ride ahead of the wagon train
 - ☐ C. to fix broken wagon wheels
 - ☐ D. to report on different problems

3.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to explicitly stated main/central ideas or details

ID:232647 C Common

- 6** What is the **main idea** of the part titled “What kinds of people traveled West?”
- ☐ A. Babies were often born during the trip West.
 - ☐ B. People who moved West were called pioneers.
 - ☐ C. Many different kinds of people moved West.
 - ☐ D. Moving West was like carrying a whole town.

If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon

Informational Text

3.2.1 Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes and base words, such as “un-covered”; or context clues; or other resources, such as dictionaries, glossaries; or prior knowledge)

ID-232595 Common

7 Use the definitions below.

trail (noun): 1. a marked or beaten path
(verb): 2. to follow behind

Write your own sentences using the word trail to show **each** dictionary meaning.

1. _____

2. _____

Use the definitions below.

report (noun): 1. a news story
(verb): 2. to tell what happened

Write your own sentences using the word report to show **each** dictionary meaning.

3. _____

4. _____

**NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING**

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides four sentences or phrases that accurately show each dictionary meaning.
3	Response provides three sentences or phrases that accurately show each dictionary meaning.
2	Response provides two sentences or phrases that accurately show each dictionary meaning.
1	Response provides one sentence or phrase that accurately shows each dictionary meaning. OR Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

Accept sentences that accurately use each word for each dictionary meaning.

Do not score responses based on correct use of writing conventions (i.e., spelling, subject/verb agreement, or punctuation).

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 4

ID:232595 Common

7 Use the definitions below.

trail (noun): 1. a marked or beaten path
(verb): 2. to follow behind

Write your own sentences using the word trail to show **each** dictionary meaning.

1. We hired the trail on the mountain.
2. Sam was left to trail behind

Use the definitions below.

report (noun): 1. a news story
(verb): 2. to tell what happened

Write your own sentences using the word report to show **each** dictionary meaning.

3. There was a special report on the News.
4. "I will report this right away."

Response provides four sentences or phrases that accurately show each dictionary meaning.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 3

ID:232595 Common

- 7 Use the definitions below.

trail (noun): 1. a marked or beaten path
(verb): 2. to follow behind

Write your own sentences using the word trail to show **each** dictionary meaning.

1. That looks like a cool trail.

2. Just follow the trail.

Use the definitions below.

report (noun): 1. a news story
(verb): 2. to tell what happened

Write your own sentences using the word report to show **each** dictionary meaning.

3. I have a knew report for you

4. We should report this

Response provides three sentences or phrases that accurately show each dictionary meaning.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 2

ID:232595 Common

- 7 Use the definitions below.

trail (noun): 1. a marked or beaten path
(verb): 2. to follow behind

Write your own sentences using the word trail to show **each** dictionary meaning.

1. I walk on a trail in the woods.

2. I follow behind my dad on the trail in the way.

Use the definitions below.

report (noun): 1. a news story
(verb): 2. to tell what happened

Write your own sentences using the word report to show **each** dictionary meaning.

3. On the news they tell car crash reports.

4. The report was about a car crash.

Response provides two sentences or phrases that accurately show each dictionary meaning.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 1

ID:232595 Common

- 7 Use the definitions below.

trail (noun): 1. a marked or beaten path
(verb): 2. to follow behind

Write your own sentences using the word trail to show **each** dictionary meaning.

1. A marking where people can walk
2. A trail someone has walked on and your walking on.

Use the definitions below.

report (noun): 1. a news story
(verb): 2. to tell what happened

Write your own sentences using the word report to show **each** dictionary meaning.

3. When if something is go to haping they will teal on TV.
4. Someone might say torndo might lapen here

Response provides one sentence or phrase that accurately shows each dictionary meaning.

OR

Response is vague or minimal.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 0

ID:232595 Common

7 Use the definitions below.

trail (noun): 1. a marked or beaten path
(verb): 2. to follow behind

Write your own sentences using the word trail to show **each** dictionary meaning.

1. When some is in a line.

2. to copy what they do

Use the definitions below.

report (noun): 1. a news story
(verb): 2. to tell what happened

Write your own sentences using the word report to show **each** dictionary meaning.

3. a story of what happened

4. if some won in dead

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon

Informational Text

3.7.1 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by obtaining information from text features (e.g., table of contents, glossary, basic transition words, bold or italicized text, headings, graphic organizers, charts, graphs, or illustrations)

ID:232592 B Common

- 8** What is the **main** purpose of the dark headings in the passage?
- ☐ A. to ask the reader questions about the West
 - ☐ B. to organize the information in the passage
 - ☐ C. to show questions that the author still has
 - ☐ D. to give information that is not in the passage

3.3.2 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings or relationships by selecting appropriate words to use in context, including content specific vocabulary (e.g., predator/prey, or words with multiple meanings)

ID:203758 A Common

- 9** In the last paragraph, the word pioneers means people who
- ☐ A. are the first to do something.
 - ☐ B. live an exciting life.
 - ☐ C. know many different people.
 - ☐ D. are elected to be leaders.

If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon

Informational Text

3.3.1 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings or relationships by identifying synonyms, antonyms, or homonyms/homophones; or categorizing words

ID:232664 A Common

10 Which word means the **opposite** of distant?

- ☐ A. near
- ☐ B. rough
- ☐ C. new
- ☐ D. plenty

3.1.1 Applies word identification/decoding strategies by identifying multi-syllabic words, by using knowledge of sounds, syllable types, or word patterns (including prefixes, suffixes, or variant spellings for consonants or vowels, e.g., bought)

ID:232657 C Common

11 Which of the following is **not** a compound word?

- ☐ A. bedtime
- ☐ B. storekeepers
- ☐ C. adventures
- ☐ D. faraway

If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon

Informational Text

3.8.5 Analyze and interpret informational texts, citing evidence where appropriate by making inferences about causes or effects

ID-203768 Common

- 12** Explain why people in wagon trains traveled in groups instead of alone. Use details from the passage.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of why people in wagon trains traveled in groups instead of alone. Response includes relevant details from the passage.
3	Response provides an explanation of why people in wagon trains traveled in groups instead of alone. Response includes details from the passage.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of why people in wagon trains traveled in groups instead of alone. Response includes limited details from the passage.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

Reasons why people in wagon trains traveled in groups instead of alone:

- People did not want to leave their families behind.
- People needed the safety and guidance of someone leading the way (i.e., the captain).
- People needed to have others with different skills around them.
- People needed others to provide food that was lost (i.e., flour).
- People needed help from other families if a wagon wheel broke, etc.

Accept other plausible reasons supported by information from the passage.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 4

ID:203768 Common

- 12 Explain why people in wagon trains traveled in groups instead of alone. Use details from the passage.

People traveled in wagon trains because it was more convenient and safe. If you traveled in a wagon train you could post guards for indian or animal attacks. Also if you run out of food or if your food gets spoiled you could ask for some more from others in the wagon train.

Response provides a thorough explanation of why people in wagon trains traveled in groups instead of alone. Response includes relevant details from the passage.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 3

ID:203768 Common

- 12 Explain why people in wagon trains traveled in groups instead of alone. Use details from the passage.

They traveled together instead of alone because if a woman was going to have a baby some of the other women could help. They traveled together also because they hunted buffalo.

Response provides an explanation of why people in wagon trains traveled in groups instead of alone. Response lacks some relevant details from the passage or is not fully developed.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 2

ID:203768 Common

- 12 Explain why people in wagon trains traveled in groups instead of alone. Use details from the passage.

So they would be able to hunt better
and have more people to help the
babies.

Response provides a partial explanation of why people in wagon trains traveled in groups instead of alone. Response includes limited details from the passage.

SCORE POINT 1

ID:203768 Common

- 12 Explain why people in wagon trains traveled in groups instead of alone. Use details from the passage.

because it's a lot safer.

Response is vague or minimal.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 4 READING

SCORE POINT 0

ID:203768 Common

- 12 Explain why people in wagon trains traveled in groups instead of alone. Use details from the passage.

BECAUSE THEY WANT TO BE FREE.
AND HAVE A NICE LAND
AND DON'T HAVE TO PAY TAXES.

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.